

We, your Committee on Resolutions, beg leave to report as follows:

1. That the first, second, and third grade certificates shall remain as now provided by law.

2. That in addition to these three grades given by the County Superintendent, a certificate known as State Certificate, be issued after examination by a Board of Examiners appointed by the State Board of Education; that no one be permitted to stand the State examination without first presenting a first-grade certificate from the County Superintendent and a testimonial from the Superintendent of the county in which said applicant has taught, that he has taught successfully at least one year. The said State Certificate shall be good in any county in the State for a period of five years. The minimum salary paid a teacher holding a State Certificate shall be thirty-five dollars per month.

C. W. MASSEY,  
THOS. R. FOUST,  
W. T. R. BELL,  
F. P. HALL,  
C. W. HOWARD,  
*Committee.*

The experience and scholarship of the teacher should count for something, just as these things count for something in every other profession. The only way to make it worth while for the teacher to spend time and money in acquiring these is to put a premium upon their acquisition by fixing a reasonable minimum salary, at least, for such teachers, and by issuing to them a certificate valid for a term of five years, without further examination, in every county of the State. I believe that the enactment of this recommendation into law by the General Assembly would prove a spur to professional ambition and improvement and a guarantee of increased salaries for the best teachers.

*Improvement of County Institutes and Summer Schools.*—"In the meantime, some means must be found for placing at small expense within easy reach of the rank and file of the teachers the best possible opportunities for improvement under present conditions. These opportunities must be carried to the teachers. They cannot afford to go far nor to spend much money to get them. I am satisfied, therefore, that the county institute and summer school is at present the only practical means of reaching and helping the majority of the poorly paid rural public school teachers of the State. These institutes should be a combination of an institute and a summer school, affording the teachers an opportunity to increase their knowledge of the subjects taught and to learn by practical talks and object-lessons better ways of teaching them. They should continue not less than two weeks nor more than a month. They should be held in every county at least once in two years, and attendance upon them should be, as now, compulsory.

"Heretofore the work of these institutes has been desultory. There has been no systematic or uniform plan of work. There has been no progressive and continuous development in the work. The institutes have been conducted by different teachers in different ways in different counties each year, sometimes conducted by men and women without experience or special fitness for such work, generally conducted by teachers with whom this work is a mere incident to their regular work, adopted as a means of supplementing their salaries during the vacation months. Four or five thousand dollars are spent annually by the counties in this desultory work. Section 4167 of the School Law now vests in the State Superintendent the power to appoint the